

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 have been amended.

2. Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephone conversation of 14 March, 2006.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5-9, 11, and 12 are patentable over the combination of Green (WO 98/10571 in view of Sudo et al. (US 5,999,827, "Sudo") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Green and Sudo fails to disclose or suggest a user interface adapted to be replaceable, or replacing a user interface, by placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part, as recited by claims 1 and 9.

Green discloses a keypad adaptor which can be mounted on a conventional keypad of a phone. The adaptor includes keys which are preferably larger and more spaced out than the keys of the conventional keypad, making the keys of the keypad adaptor easier to use by e.g. impaired persons. Green does not disclose changing the function of the keys of the conventional keypad. The keys still retain their original functions after the adapter is placed over the original keypad. More significantly, Green fails to disclose removing the upper part of the cover of the phone and replacing it with the keypad adaptor.

Referring to the "Response to Arguments" section of the Final Action mailed on 30 December 2005, the Examiner argues that Figure 1 of Green clearly discloses that *the replacement cover*

is placed in a detachable manner in connection with the housing...and in place of the second part 3. According to Applicants' understanding the phrase "in place of" means that something is first removed and after that something else is placed instead. However, on the basis of the specification (and Figure 1) of Green it is clear that nothing is removed from the mobile telephone before the keypad adaptor 1 is placed on top of the keypad 3 of the mobile telephone.

To further clarify this feature and to advance prosecution of this application, claims 1 and 9 of the present application have been amended to explicitly state that the second part of the cover is removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part.

As mentioned previously, Sudo discloses a communication terminal apparatus and control method thereof. The terminal comprises a normal keypad and some soft keys. The operation of the soft keys can be changed depending on the operational state of the terminal and the keypad has keys with multiple operations. For example, the numeric keys may be used to input numbers or letters and may also provide a selection of display items.

However, like Green, Sudo fails to disclose replacing a user interface by placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part. There is nothing in Sudo related to removing the second part and placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in place of the second part, as recited by claims 1 and 9.

At least for these reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of Green and Sudo fails to disclose all the features of independent claims 1 and 9, and dependent claims 5-8, 11 and 12. Therefore, these claims are patentable over the combination of Green and Sudo.

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, and 10 are patentable over the combination of Green and Sudo, further in view of Fuhrmann et al. (WO 97/32423, "Fuhrmann").

Claims 2-4 and 10 depend from claims 1 or 9.

Fuhrmann fails to supply the features missing from the combination of Green and Sudo argued above.

Fuhrmann only relates to replacing a cover with a different cover while the functions remain the same. Fuhrmann only discloses a cover that has an opening for a display and for keys but has no display or keys itself.

Thus, the combination of Green, Sudo and Fuhrmann fails to disclose or suggest replacing a user interface by placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in place of the second part.

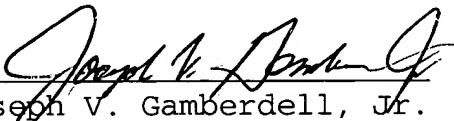
At least for these reasons, claims 2-4, and 10 are patentable over the combination of Green, Sudo and Fuhrmann.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and

are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695


30 March 2006
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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